

Dusted Skipper *Atrytonopsis hianna*

Habitat Preference: Native Prairie

Threats:

- Loss of prairie habitat
 - Conversion of prairie to cultivated ground
 - Tree invasion: shade is detrimental to the success of this species
- Invasion of non-native plants
- Haying at certain times of the year could limit available flowering plants used for food
- Over grazing will limit available flowering plants used for food
- Fragmentation could cause butterflies to travel long distance to find the particular plant species on which it feed.



Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Preserve areas with Dusted skipper populations.
- Restore grassland habitat. Caterpillars feed on grasses such as little bluestem. Adults feed on nectar of forbs. When creating a new seeding consider including forbs that bloom from late spring through early summer to create a constant food source.
- Burning is important to keep native grasslands from becoming encroached with woody vegetation and to keep introduced invaders from degrading the natural plant communities. The area should not be burned more than every 3-5 years. Areas should be broken up into several burn units that are burned on a rotational basis to provide refuge for Dusted Skippers.
- Dusted Skippers are dependent upon native prairie plants. Areas that become encroached with woody vegetation will not be utilized by Dusted Skippers.